



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board

Dan Widner
VGIN Coordinator
(804) 416-6198

Senator John C. Watkins
Chairman
Chesterfield

Senator Mark D.
Obenshain
Harrisonburg

Del. David L. Englin
Alexandria

Del. Jeffrey M. Frederick
Woodbridge

Del. Salvatore R. Iaquinto
Virginia Beach

Del. Beverly J. Sherwood
Winchester

Jeffrey M. Anderson
Virginia Economic
Development Partnership

Constance Brennan
Nelson County

W. Page Cockrell
Virginia Association of
Surveyors

Charles W. Donato
Dominion Resources

David S. Ekern, P.E.
Department of
Transportation

Stanford T. Hovey
Urbanna

John D. Jenkins
Prince William County

James W. Wilson
James Madison
University

Christopher R. Knights
Intrado

Joseph Maroon
Department of
Conservation and
Recreation

Richard Pevarski
Virginia Utilities
Protection Service

Lemuel C. Stewart, Jr.
VITA

To:
Virginia Community College System

RE:
The Importance of Teaching Geospatial Technologies

Dear Sir or Madam:

As Chairman of the VGIN Advisory Board, I want to emphasize the importance of the training of geospatial technologies within the Virginia Community College system. I see everyday how geospatial and location based technologies are utilized within many disciplines. The U. S. Department of Labor has identified geospatial technology as the third most important emerging and evolving field, just behind nanotechnology and biotechnology¹. Today's businesses are finding new ways to integrate Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other location based technologies into their everyday jobs. These businesses will require an adequately trained workforce in geospatial technologies.

In these times of economic and employment uncertainty, a pool of trained geospatial professionals will enhance the position of Virginia's workforce for current and future employment opportunities. The Virginia Community College System is uniquely positioned to offer these training opportunities and I commend you for your existing efforts. I encourage you to continue working with the Commonwealth's academic, state and local government geospatial technologies personnel to enhance and expand a curriculum that will train a future workforce in these technologies.

Sincerely

Senator John C. Watkins

¹ "Mapping Opportunities" Nature, vol. 427, January 22, 2004, available at <http://www.aag.org/nature/nature.htm>